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DISCUSSES RISE OF MEDICAL PROFESSION IN HUNGARY

[The following is a summary of a recent lecture given by Dr Istvan Rusznyak, president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, at the Party Teacher's House.]

There are 5,500 more hospital beds available today than there were in 1938; this number will increase as the Five-Year Plan nears completion. More hospital beds are available per 10,000 people in Hungary than in Belgium or in France.

Today, there are more dispensaries in Budapest alone than there were in all of Hungary in 1938. The population increase was 47 percent higher in 1952 than in 1938, and 57 percent less people died of tuberculosis during the same period.

Thanks to the material assistance of the USSR, the Hungarian medical profession has been making significant progress, and the first Five-Year Plan is allotting 1,700,000,000 forints to scientific research.

Scientists and physicians can work in material comfort. Today every Hungarian physician has a paid position and the government is constantly raising the medical pay scales. Thirty-six public health workers have won the Kossuth Prize with its accompanying cash award, and many others have received medals and other awards for outstanding service.

The state does everything possible to enable young people to enter the medical profession. The future generation of physicians is composed largely of the children of workers, peasants, and intellectuals. Besides scholarships and other financial assistance, they receive room and board at preferential rates in students' homes, and they may borrow books free of charge.

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Graduating medical students find employment quickly in hospitals, clinics, and medical schools. Hundreds of new positions are open in the field of public health. There are also the excellent candidate careers, under the "aspirantura" project, especially created for scientific cadres. In the 3 years since the creation of this project, the state has spent 100,000 forints on every candidate.

The army is looking for graduate medical students, too. Those who enter this field receive special training under the direction of the finest physicians in the country, and they have an opportunity to work in the research institutes as well.

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